



Transportation Advisory Committee

Date: June 9, 2021.

Time: 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM.

Location: Conducted via Remote Participation (Zoom).

Minutes.

1. Administration.

Members in Attendance: Michael Barry, Bill Copithorne (DPW), Lenard Diggins, Richard Flynn (APD), Ray Jones, Melissa Laube, Jeff Maxtutis, Howard Muise (Chair), Tycho Nightingale, Scott Smith, Laura Swan, and Shoji Takahashi.

Members Absent: Dan Amstutz (DPCD)

Members of Public in Attendance: Paul Schlichtman and Petru Sofio.

A. Script for Remotely Conducted Meetings.

The Chair read the script for remotely conducted meetings, referred the members to the agenda attachment entitled “Governor Charles Baker’s 3/12/2020 Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law,” announced that the meeting was being recorded and reviewed the meeting ground rules.

B. Approval of April 14, 2021, and May 12, 2021 Meeting Notes.

Minutes of the April 14, 2021, meeting were approved. Minutes of the May 12, 2021, meeting were approved.

C. Correspondence Sent/Received from May 6, 2021 to June 3, 2021.

- Memo dated May 12, 2021, from Howard Muise, TAC Chair, to the Arlington Select Board re: Recommendations for Chestnut Street.
- Memo dated May 10, 2021, from Wayne Chouinard, Town Engineer, to Howard Muise, TAC Chair, re: Chestnut Street Summary.

2. Public Comments.

There were no public comments.

3. Town Issues/Activities.

A. There was no update from the Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD).

B. Bill Copithorne provided an update from the Department of Public Works (DPW):

Pavement markings (lane striping and bike symbols) will be added or refreshed at Lowell St and Lake St.

Lake St and Minuteman Bikeway: final punch list items are being completed.

(1) Speed limit sign, which is supposed to operate as School Zone Speed Limit during the appropriate times, and Lake Street speed limit otherwise. (2) Sign “except bicycles” will be added to the “No Turns” signs that are in place. (3) Straight arrows on signal heads, which are to reduce drivers turning onto the bikeway. In response to a question from Petru Sofio, the “Wait for Green” sign operation is being examined for proper functioning. Scott Smith observed that westbound motorists on Lake St waiting for the green light at the Bikeway intersection would hesitate, hypothesizing that the motorists might have difficulty seeing the green light with the positioning of the louvers. Laura Swan confirmed the difficulty in seeing the green light.

GridSmart signal equipment: processor located at Mystic St and Chestnut St is designed to record data for pedestrian and bicycle counts and is presently out for repair. DPW is checking on the processors located at the intersection of Swan Pl and Mass Ave; and the intersection of Mass Ave and Pleasant St/Mystic St. In response to a question from Laura Swan, the processor is supposed to perform pedestrian counts by detection (not requiring push activation of the pedestrian button). Jeff Maxtutis added that some systems can record skipped or missed phases in addition to volume collection.

Mass Ave and Appleton St: temporary design tested to simulate how to make the left turn from Mass Ave to Appleton Street require a 90-degree turn. Appleton to Mass Ave with turn prohibition from Mass Ave to Appleton St. Observations of reduced vehicle speeds, while permitting movement of large equipment such as AFD truck. Information was shared with Design Review Committee and Green International.

Repaving occurring near Gibbs School on Bates Road, Allen St, and Raleigh St. Repaving will be done near Stratton School in preparation for SRTS project on Hemlock St.

Curb ramp and sidewalk: River St and Appleton St (where there was no sidewalk previously).

Mass Ave and Lowell St: In response to a question from Petru Sofio, temporary design test will occur later this summer to increase the turning radius. Some considerations are the downhill slope, a driveway entrance, and parking spaces.

C. Richard Flynn provided an update from the Police Department (APD).

Mass Ave/Appleton St/Appleton PI Intersection: continues to work closely with DPW at this intersection including the testing of curb extensions and left-turn prohibition.

Dallin Elementary School: working with DPCD and SRTS on feasibility of certain improvements during drop-off and pickup times.

Crosby St: opinion of the Traffic Unit based on crash data, speeding citations, and other citation data does not support the use of traffic counters at this time.

4. Election of Officers.

Scott Smith put forth a motion to elect the following officers, which was approved: Laura Swan as Chair; Jeff Maxtutis as Vice Chair; Shoji Takahashi as Secretary. Laura Swan will continue as School Committee Representative to TAC.

5. Update: Lower Washington Street Issues

Melissa Laube provided an update to the abutters. The Working Group will move forward with analysis on traffic impacts if the street operation is changed to one way (one-way northbound from Brattle St to Brattle Terr; or one-way southbound from Brattle Terr to Brattle St). It will also consider signage to recommend for installation.

Shoji Takahashi observed an Arlington School Bus traveling northbound on Lower Washington St and suggested that the Working Group also contact APS to understand bus movement. Laura Swan will identify a contact person to discuss APS bus routes.

Bill Copithorne reiterated his hesitation on TAC making recommendations on a private way. In response to Scott Smith, he said that the Town will not purchase the signs for the private way.

TAC recommendation would go to the Select Board for approval. In response to Bill Copithorne, Captain Flynn said that APD can enforce one-way operation on private ways.

6. Update: Mass Ave at Appleton St.

Howard Muise read a note from Dan Amstutz to inform the TAC that the next Design Review Committee has not yet been scheduled. Dan Amstutz will be meeting with Green International to discuss next steps and focus on items that can be done as soon as possible. Petru Sofio added that Green International presented two new designs such as buffered bike lanes, removal of parking, and reduced lane width, which are available on the website.

7. Update: Speed Enforcement in Crosby St. Neighborhood

Shoji Takahashi followed up on Captain Flynn's update that traffic counts will not be conducted. The Working Group will convene to walk the area and make observations such as speed limit signs and sight lines. Laura Swan and Melissa Laube discussed the concerns of residents perceiving high vehicle speeds (automobiles and trucks) particularly given the presence of children.

8. Update: Mt. Gilboa Traffic Concerns

Ray Jones informed TAC that the Working Group conducted a site visit on May 22 with about ten residents to hear their comments. Residents are concerned about pedestrians crossing Lowell St when the new playground at the Reservoir opens. This area has been examined by TAC in the past with recommendations made and some implemented.

A summary is being drafted which will include the previously recommended speed-feedback sign and RRFB as well as repainting lines; adding stop bars at Westmoreland and Westminster; and trimming tree branches that are obstructing signs.

In response to Howard Muise, Bill Copithorne responded that DPW has committed to installing the speed-feedback sign and RRFB on Lowell St. The delay is in funding the installations, and he will update TAC on its status.

9. Update: SRTS Dallin

Laura Swan updated that Dan Amstutz is arranging a meeting among Thad Dingman (Principal of Dallin Elementary), APD, and Judy Crocker (SRTS) to discuss which recommendations could be implemented on a trial basis (such as one way traffic on George St; bus-only zone in front of the school building during drop off and pickup).

10. Update: Park Ave at Appleton St

Howard Muise asked DPW to update TAC on the status of funding a study on how a proposed signal at Park Ave and Appleton St would affect traffic on Park Ave.

11. Update: Parking space on Mass Ave at Town Hall Crosswalk

Howard Muise discussed the possibility of TAC moving towards a recommendation on removing a parking space adjacent to the Town Hall crosswalk on the westbound side of Mass Ave. Guidelines adopted by TAC recommend no parking within 20' before crosswalk to provide visibility.

Scott Smith and Bill Copithorne pointed out that it is a single parking spot squeezed between the crosswalk and the exit of the Citizens Bank parking lot. However, the area businesses might object to the loss of the parking space. Bill Copithorne added that Corey Rateau had said previously that there is a reluctance to remove any metered spots in general, as businesses have been vocal about maintaining parking.

Captain Flynn concurred that there are limited spaces for businesses in the area. He will inquire with Corey Rateau about parking space.

12. Discussion: Post-COVID Meeting Protocols

Howard Muise noted that the Governor's state of emergency ends on June 15, and all public meetings will need to revert to in person. There is proposed legislation to extend the open meeting law to permit remote meetings for a period of time. The Town is considering the possibility of combined in-person and remote meetings, although this is technically challenging. Dan Amstutz will update TAC.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.